

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 L-03

LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02

SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01

IO-13 RSR-01 /201 W

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R 022245Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3440

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

RUESMG/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 189

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMCONSUL RIO DEJANEIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR; XX; ES

SUBJ: COFFEE-MEXICAN COFFEE DELEGATION ON TOUR TO RESTORE PRODUCER
HARMONY

REF: RIO DE JANEIRO 2683 NOTAL

1. IN REACTION TO LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE GIVEN TO SPEECH
ATTRIBUTED TO FAUSTO CANTU PENA, PRESIDENT OF MEXICO'S COFFEE
INSTITUTE (IMC) IN WHICH HE SAID MEXICO WOULD NOT SUBSIDIZE
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EL SALVADOR'S "OLIGARCHS", SALVADORAN COFFEE PRODUCERS TOOK OUT

FULL PAGE NEWSPAPER ADS RESPONDING VIGOROUSLY TO CANTU PENS'S CHARGES AND ADDING A NUMBER OF THEIR OWN. THEY CRITICIZED MEXICO FOR OPEN OR UNDERGROUND VIOLATIONS OF AGREEMENTS WHEN THEY NO LONGER SUITED MEXICAN INTERESTS, OF REFERRING TO SURPLUSES WHEN IN A "FREE" MARKET NONE CAN EXIST, AND OF PARTICIPATING IN KICKBACKS. THEY SAID EL SALVADOR CLEARLY HAS SUFFERED MORE THAN ANY OTHER MEMBER FROM THE INJUSTICES IN THE ICA'S. IN COUNTER PUNCHES, THEY CLAIMED THAT EL SALVADOR'S PRODUCTIVITY EXCEEDS THAT OF MEXICO; THAT THE SALVADORANS, WHILE NOT PRETENDING TO KNOW IT ALL, ARE CONSTANTLY TRYING TO LEARN, EMULATING "DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES" THAT CAN FEED THEIR OWN PEOPLE AND HALF THE WORLD "AND WE'RE NOT REFERRING TO YOUR COUNTRY, SENOR CANTU." THEY AGREED WITH BRAZILIAN VIACAVA'S VIEW THAT CANTU MOMENTARILY LOST HIS SENSES. FINALLY, THEY REMINDED THE MEXICAN OF MEXICO'S HISTORICAL COLONIAL DESIGNS ON CENTRAL AMERICA AND CONCLUDED BY LABELING CANTU PENA'S STATEMENTS AS TOTALLY FALSE TENDENTIOUS, DEMAGOGICAL AND IRRESPONSIBLE.

2. ON AUGUST 2 SALVADORANS WERE INFORMED BY THE MORNING PRESS THAT ALL WAS WELL AGAIN WITH THEIR MEXICAN BROTHERS. IT WAS REPORTED THAT SALVADORAN COFFEE COMPANY (CSC) OFFICIALS HAD ACCEPTED THE EXPLANATION OF A VISITING MEXICAN DELEGATION THAT CANTU PENA WAS MISQUOTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICES, AND THAT THE INCIDENT WAS PROVOKED BY "FOREIGN INTERESTS", TRYING TO DAMAGE THE UNITY OF COFFEE PRODUCING COUNTRIES. DANIEL MORALES, DEPUTY COMMERCIAL MANAGER OF THE IMC AND ITS DEPUTY LEGAL MANAGER DAVID PENA MET WITH CSC GENERAL MANAGER DR. FALLA CACERES AND TWO CSC DIRECTORS. MORALES WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT 20 MEXICAN NEWSPAPERS ACCURATELY REPORTED CANTU PENA'S SPEECH AND HAD NO MENTION OF EL SALVADOR. THEY SAID THE PURPOSE OF THEIR TRIP WAS TO CORRECT THIS ERRONEOUS INTERPRETATION GIVEN TO CATU'S SPEECH AND TO AFFIRM MEXICO'S UNITY WITH SISTER COUNTRIES IN THE COMMON DEFENSE OF COFFEE PRICES, AND PARTICULARLY TO REAFFIRM SOLIDARITY WITH THEIR SALVADORAN BROTHERS. DR. FALLA SAID HE ACCEPTED THE EXPLANATION OF MORALES, THAT THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO CANTU REPRESENTED A MISUNDERSTANDING, AND THAT THEY APPEARED TO REPRESENT THE FOREIGN INTERESTS OPPOSED TO THE INCREASES IN COFFEE PRICES. MORALES TOLD THE PRESS HE AND PENA ARE VISITING OTHER LATIN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING BRAZIL, TO RECTIFY THE INTERNATIONAL WIRE STORIES.

3. COMMENT: THIS TEMPEST IN A COFFEE POT BROUGHT

OUT LATENT SALVADORAN RESENTMENT TOWARDS MEXICO ("THEY
ARE TOO MEXICAN") WHICH WILL NOT BE CHANGED BY A
VISITING DELEGATION. THAT THE IMC WOULD CONSIDER THE
MATTER SERIOUS ENOUGH TO DESPATCH A CONCILIATION TEAM
TO CORRECT AN "ERRONEOUS" WIRE STORY RAISES REAL DOUBTS
AS TO THE TRUTH; BUT IT DOES APPEAR TO PROVE THAT
MEXICO, LIKE EL SALVADOR, DOES NOT WANT TO ISOLATE
HERSELF FROM THE PRODUCER CLUB'S LEADERS.
MOSKOWITZ

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